

**BOOK REVIEW**  
**Thinking for a Change**  
by John C. Maxwell  
reviewed by Joseph C. Piff

Thinking for a Change, by John C. Maxwell, is subtitled 11 Ways Highly Successful People Approach Life and Work. This is another “self-help” book in a growing series of such books by Mr. Maxwell.

Mr. Maxwell’s proven pattern for book writing is to name an idea and to give an example from history of that idea applied to life or work. He maintains that pattern throughout this book.

Part 1, the first three chapters of the book, set the stage for the tutorial by establishing the purpose of thinking. Mr. Maxwell answers questions such as “What does it mean to be a good thinker?” “How does my thinking impact the level of my success?” and “How can I cultivate the habit of giving birth to, nurturing, and developing great thoughts every day?” We are taught to take action to get results, but Mr. Maxwell suggests that thinking prior to taking action is the first step toward taking the right action. The second idea is that your thoughts are who you are – I think, therefore, I am. And finally, taking time to think great thoughts every day yields success.

Part 2 has the 11 chapters that describe the thinking skills that every successful person needs. Each skill is described with both anecdotal evidence and general guidance. Steps to follow to improve your ability to master each skill are presented. And each chapter ends with a series of questions to help you judge yourself on each of these attributes.

The end of the book includes an Afterthought. Mr. Maxwell lists the 11 thinking skills and asks that you rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 10, 10 being highest, on each of the skills. He then says you should spend 80% of your time doing the type of thinking where you rate yourself an eight or better, 20% where you rate yourself between 6 and 7, and 0% where you rate yourself a five or less. Nobody can expect to master every skill. Put someone on your team who does better thinking in skills where you are weak.

In conclusion, this book is an easy read. Mr. Maxwell has a very comfortable style that makes reading his books enjoyable, at least if you can get over all of the deficiencies he finds in your lifestyle. This is another book that is a good source of information on how our minds work, and how we are all different. That is good information for team building.